

PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

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THREEPENCE

GROWING PROTEST OVER H-BOMB

PPU calls for Big-three meeting

The following is the full text of a Press release issued by the Peace Pledge Union:

THE Executive Committee of the Peace Pledge Union desires to record its deep concern at the decision of President Truman regarding the H-bomb.

It believes that this decision represents a denial of fundamental moral principles and values and is an outrage against the conscience of mankind.

It is convinced that this decision must lead to an intensification of the race in atomic weapons, the end of which is not peace but atomic war.

It calls upon the leaders of the political parties in Great Britain immediately to dissociate themselves from this decision of the President of the USA and urges that the first action of the newly elected Government should be the repudiation of the policy involved and an invitation to President Truman and Marshal Stalin to meet at the earliest possible moment with the British Prime Minister.

The PPU would further urge that this latest step in war preparation justifies the contention that it is a delusion

'Down to rifles'—Senator's disarmament call

AN INCREASING VOLUME OF PROTEST IN AMERICA AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION GIVES PROMISE OF DEVELOPING INTO AN EFFECTIVE MOVEMENT.

Senator Millard E. Tydings, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, last Monday submitted a resolution in the Senate calling on the President to summon a world disarmament conference.

The resolution urged prohibition of the manufacture and the use of any arms except those used by occupation and police forces within individual countries.

"All the way down to rifles"

General disarmament, said Mr. Tydings, was the only way to curb the awful destruction threatened by the H-bomb.

International control for hydrogen and atom bombs would prove illusory. As soon as war began with more conventional weapons every country would begin to produce hydrogen and atomic bombs as fast as it could.

"All you would get from such controls," he said, "would be a truce between wars." Instead, the world should agree to disarm "all the way down to rifles."

The Senator said his action had been prompted by the grim reality that these weapons were so destructive that "not just one city, but civilisation itself, is threatened with destruction."

second opportunity, but—"I do not think a third will be given us."

RENOUNCE FIRST USE OF BOMB
U.S. Scientists plea

Twelve leading American physicists, all of whom took part in developing the atom bomb, last week urged the U.S. to make a solemn declaration that it would never use the H-bomb unless an enemy used it first.

In a statement issued at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society, they confirmed that a bomb could now be developed with a thousand times the power of the present type and that a single one could destroy New York or any other city.

"We believe that no nation has the right to use such a bomb," they declared, "no matter how righteous the cause. It is no longer a weapon of war but a means of exterminating whole populations. Its use would be a betrayal of all standards of morality and of Christian civilisation itself."

VATICAN HAS HOPES

That the world's realisation of the abyss which threatens it would result in saving peace, was the hope expressed last week by the Vatican newspaper, Osservatore Romano.

If, it said, after two wars to end war, there is no means of preventing war other than a return to the ancient—"If you want peace prepare for war," we must confess a complete bankruptcy of a philosophy and of a pseudo-civilisation. It would end as pre-Christian society had ended, in the triumph of force.

But if these "apocalyptic" armaments induced the conviction that force was not enough to defend peace, and cannot avoid annihilating life, then salvation would arise once again from a fatal error.

'A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY'
SAY BRITISH FRIENDS

A letter to the Press by the British Friends Peace Committee, referring to the H-bomb situation, says:—

"It is not too late. Men and women everywhere must make this matter their personal responsibility and not leave it to Governments and experts.

"Senator McMahon has made a dramatic suggestion which should be taken up immediately. His proposals would result in a saving which could be used to give new life and hope to the suffering peoples of the world.

"No candidate should be elected to the new Parliament who is not prepared to use his or her whole influence in supporting the McMahon proposals and in calling a halt to this mad race to suicide."

It might have been an H-bomb



THIS DISASTER WAS TOO BIG

The impossibility of coping with a disaster similar to an H-bomb explosion was adequately demonstrated by the disastrous earthquake which occurred in Ecuador last August. Relief and rescue workers from the western hemisphere could not deal with the situation, which is fully described in an article on page three.

Shown above is the collapsing spire of a church in Ambato, Ecuador, taken by an American pacifist missionary who with other pacifists had been working before the disaster occurred to ease the lot of South America's poverty-stricken populace.

THE CHURCHES PROTEST

Religious Conference called

TO discuss Christian action raised by war, 500 delegates will meet at Detroit, May 8-11, for a conference on "The Church and War."

"The world is waiting for a Christian voice that is unequivocal and unafraid," announces Dr. Albert E. Day, Methodist Minister at Mount Vernon, Baltimore.

The Hiroshima bomb took the Church unawares, before it could lift its voice, he says. Now is the time for the Church to make up its mind.

Among those calling the Conference are Clarence E. Pickett and Henry J. Cadbury, of the Nobel Prize-winning American Friends Service Committee, and the officers of the American Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Blow to U.S. moral standing

Thirty distinguished Christian theologians have issued a statement in New York protesting against the manufacture of the H-bomb.

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, it says, struck a heavy blow at American moral prestige. That prestige will be undermined almost beyond repair, especially among the masses of Asia and Africa, if they now proceed to launch the terror of the H-bomb on the world.

The issue for Christians is not whether the U.S. can afford the physical risk of atomic war, but whether it can afford the spiritual risk of losing its soul in the hope—probably vain—of saving its skin.

The statement adds that the nation now needs "an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, giving us faith in God and the weapons of the spirit rather than the weapons of the flesh."

Current issues were raised at a meeting in London last Tuesday, addressed by Dr. Donald Soper. A report of this will be published next week.

No-conscription poster parade

On the previous Saturday a poster parade advertising the meeting and protesting against conscription attracted widespread attention as it passed through the West End of London. About 20 persons took part.

THE ELECTION

Where is peace issue?

I AM expecting my first baby in a fortnight and have arranged to vote by post.

As far as home affairs are concerned, obviously Labour has done more for the people than the Conservatives. Expectant mothers have benefited tremendously.

But what is the use of the extra physical nourishment if our minds are fed on stories of atom-bomb warfare?

And now comes the threat of the hydrogen bomb. The chief issue of this election as far as I am concerned is peace, and I feel sure that I speak on behalf of most women. Yet, how many candidates refer to it? Why is it glossed over?—(Mrs. F. Burgess, Red Lion Street, W.C.1.)

—The Star, Feb. 6, 1950.

SPEND ARMS MONEY ON CONSTRUCTION—McMahon

Four days before Senator Tydings' motion, Senator McMahon, chairman of the Congressional Atomic Energy Commission, proposed in the Senate that USA should offer to spend \$50,000 million dollars—two-thirds its annual arms budget for five years—to foster peace in return for effective international control.

H-bomb threatens American freedom

There was no security in the possession of the hydrogen bomb, he said.

If America won the race to build the weapon, the advantage would only be brief, and promised only the negative result of averting a well-nigh certain catastrophe for a few months or years.

How was it possible to maintain free institutions while defence must ceaselessly be posed to meet an attack that might burn 50 million Americans to death in a matter of minutes?

He proposed that \$10,000 million should be put aside each year for five years and offered to the world on two conditions—

General acceptance of an effective control programme, and agreement by all countries to devote two-thirds of their arms expenses to constructive ends.

Were such proposals accepted, he added, "we would have concluded the cheapest monetary bargain in our history."

He called for American broadcasts on a scale comparable to Soviet broadcasts and the world distribution of millions of leaflets to explain the proposals.

In 1945 and 1946, he said, when thoughts were focussed on Hiroshima, America had an opportunity to "wage atomic peace," but had not exploited it. They now had a

Tomorrow's East Woolwich poster parade

A "NO-MORE-WAR" poster parade in support of Frank Hancock, the East Woolwich pacifist candidate, will take place tomorrow, Saturday, and another on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Paraders are asked to assemble at the candidate's committee rooms, 19 Angleson Road (near Woolwich Arsenal station) at 3 p.m. on both days.

From Woolwich, Frank Hancock writes: "We still need urgently more friends to help with envelope addressing and filling. We have a group of very willing and efficient helpers, who must be giving us all their spare time.

"We have kept well ahead of the other parties; they only woke up last Monday morning. Our original posters have been on the hoardings for a month—unchallenged.

"We have no idea yet what support we are getting. After our first meetings, and Ernest Bevin's next Sunday, we may be able to gauge the position better. There is a fine lot of peace propaganda being done, anyway. We only want help now, of all kinds."

REFUSED TO WEAR MILITARY UNIFORM

Gaoled Italian may communicate with no one

AN Italian war resister, Elevoine Santi, is being kept in close confinement in a prison in the Avellino Military District in the hope of averting publicity which would increase the growth of opposition to conscription.

Santi is forbidden to communicate with anybody or to write to anyone.

Born in 1926, he is the son of a workman, belonging to no party though in sympathy with the World Citizens and a fellow-worker with the French resister, Jean Bernard Moreau at an International Voluntary Service for Peace Camp held in France last August.

He recently refused to dress in military uniform when summoned to military service and is now awaiting trial.

As a University student he was entitled to deferment of call up, but made no claim for this, preferring to take his stand as a war-resister at the earliest opportunity.

—WRI News Service.

Bombing Restriction Committee backs Senator

THE Bombing Restriction Committee sent the following cable to Senator McMahon on the day on which his proposals were published in Britain:

"Pledge support your constructive proposals against menace Hydrogen bomb."

The Committee was established in 1940 to oppose indiscriminate bombing. It has been in abeyance since the end of the war, but retains a watching brief "to examine the (British) Government's Bombing Policy as it affects the lives of civilians."

The Committee received a great deal of hostile criticism in the popular Press during the last war when it protested against the massacre of civilians in Lubeck, Hamburg, Dresden and other German cities, by the RAF. The present acting Chairman is Prof. H. Stanley Jevons, and the Hon. Sec. is Gordon Catchpool, 49 Parliament Hill, London, N.W.3.

WIL Chairman is Liberal candidate

Mrs. McGregor Wood, Chairman of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is contesting for Northwood and Ruislip as a Liberal candidate. "We who know of her years of work for peace, freedom and internationalism will surely all agree, putting Parties aside, that the knowledge thus gained would be a valuable asset to any Government yet to be," says the Editor of the WIL's Monthly News Sheet.

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Always relevant

READERS will observe that the controversy between vegetarians and carnivores is temporarily closed in this issue. We say "temporarily" because obviously the armistice is only a lull. The end of the conflict is nowhere in sight.

It would be a brave man who would dare to step in between the combatants and attempt to summarise such a lively contest. But we are that brave man.

It has been observed in many quarters that the controversy is irrelevant in face of momentous world events. We have been charged with wasting space on trivial matters.

We profoundly disagree. The question of whether vegetarianism is or is not advisable on grounds of ethics, economics, religion, sociology, dietetics, hygiene and aesthetics is one of primary importance.

*

It is indeed hard to imagine many subjects more worthy of the highest dialectical skill than the question of What Man Eats and Why.

Even the simple fact that from Lands End to Joan o'Groats and sideways from Felixstowe to Aberystwyth there's a chemist's shop in every street, should alone be enough to raise the question to prominence and keep it there.

The subject is, in fact, integral to the very basis of the social order and of the economic system, and to the whole pattern and purpose of communal existence.

It involves the fundamental principles of bodily health and the problems of the cause and cure of disease. It involves the question of man's relation to the lower creation (itself enough to keep the liveliest brain busy). In fact we find it difficult at the moment to imagine what it doesn't involve.

We should not allow the pressure of world events to interrupt the perpetual process of self-education and clarification. The first condition of rational life is that mental activity shall be carried on at two levels simultaneously—the temporary and the eternal.

*

Let us recall, for our guide and inspiration, the hackneyed but highly exemplary story of the ship's stoker who, at the critical phase of the Battle of Jutland, was heard to remark to his mate—"Wot I say is 'e ought to 'ave married 'er."

Let us further recall the classic instance of Abraham Davenport (we write from early memory; historians may correct the details).

Abraham Davenport was an 18th century mayor of a small American fishing town. One morning when the Town Council was to meet, the rumour spread that the world was coming to an end that day. The elements gave corroborative evidence: the sky grew dark, thunder rolled. Work ceased, and the populace stood about in frightened groups or flocked into churches. The Council gathered in apprehensive silence and no one bothered to light the candles.

Then up stood Abraham Davenport: "Gentlemen, what Heaven may decide is not our business. Our business is to settle this question of an extension to the harbour. Bring in the candles!"

*

Are we less than these men? Very well, let us not shut down all discussion of personal and social reform just because that ridiculous H-bomb is hanging over us. We must go on until it drops—if only because it might not drop after all.

The question of meat and veg will be resumed later. Meanwhile, bring in the candles.

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS

Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C1

Commentary

THE reception given to Mr. Truman's H-bomb decision was nearly unanimous. The national newspapers, with a few honourable exceptions such as Reynolds News, agreed that it was "inevitable."

Within generally accepted terms of reference they are probably right. Most people take it for granted that governments cannot adopt the standards of morality and behaviour open to individuals, but must operate at a lower level which excludes idealism.

For instance, it is generally agreed that a government cannot take any definite step in the direction of moral example unless everybody else agrees to do it at the same time. This practically rules out initiative on the moral plane. It may be "practical politics" but it is also one of the most stultifying beliefs ever collectively held. If individuals, human and other, had not repeatedly acted contrary to it, we should still be somewhere on the wrong side of the reptile stage in evolution.

Governments mustn't have faith

AGAIN, there is the belief that a government, when dealing with another government, must never give anything away or make any offer which might risk placing itself at a material disadvantage.

This attitude is candidly expressed by the (normally liberal-minded) Washington correspondent of the News-Chronicle, who says that if America decided not to make the H-bomb—"the Russians will have no such scruples: they can, and sooner or later will, make the bomb. What if they then deliver an ultimatum saying that they

will use it on any nation which refuses to surrender?"

Here we may ask—How does he know the Russians have no scruples?

Admittedly, the Russian government is doing things all the time which profoundly shock this nation—things which no British Government could do, even if it wished, because of our Party system and that liberty of criticism which we have won after centuries of struggle. No British politician can, tell even the mildest lie without millions of people reading a public refutation of it next morning.

But that admission is very different from asserting that the Russians are so low in the scale of human development as to be impervious to a genuine and obvious act of faith, were it ever made.

There the matter rests—or does it?

SO that question leads to another, even more important: How are the Russians to know we've got scruples?

So far we (nationally speaking) have done nothing to show them that we have. We have offered them a single plan for atomic control which they have said they do not trust us enough to accept. To which we have replied that their fears are not genuine and that they are liars.

This is the very pattern and perfection of all deadlocks. But we should not have the heart to discuss it if we did not believe that it can, and will, be broken.

In a letter published on page six, Gerald Bailey expresses the opinion that we over-stated the Government's negative attitude towards his and Lady Parmoor's appeal for a new approach to Russia.

We hope to be proved wrong. We are certainly impressed by the importance of the fact, which he points out, that the correspondence took place long before the

announcement about the H-bomb. This may have made a difference. But we believe the most important aspect of the situation is not the professed attitude of a Government at any given moment, but the subsequent pressure of public opinion.

Key to deadlock

RECENT expressions of opinion from quarters which cannot be ignored give reasonable hope that the enlightened minority will provide the necessary impetus.

It is more than probable that we may be witnessing the beginning of a movement of protest against the further production of these weapons which will prove decisive.

There is a new note in this protest, which distinguishes it from former protests against war itself. These new weapons really have touched the conscience of society and aroused an emotional response which is unprecedented. People who have not before questioned morality of war are questioning it now, if only for the reason that now at last they find the prospect of it too terrible to permit former sanctions for war.

There is, in fact, a growing realisation that, in this matter of the methods of warfare, there can be a difference in degree so great as to amount to a difference in kind.

All forces work both ways

WE cannot estimate the possible force of the reaction against these threatened horrors. Neither can we say that the sudden and startling advance in material science will not be countered by an equally startling awakening of moral consciousness. The one revolution is as credible as the other, and as consistent with human nature.

By Fenner Brockway

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

THE influence of every movement, and indeed, the social action of every individual, must be judged in relation to the progressive development of mankind as a whole at our particular period.

At this time, there are four political and social tendencies which represent progress in the world: those making for peace, economic planning (both national and international), colonial liberation, and democratic and personal liberty. How does conscientious objection to military service fit in to this pattern?

As regards economic planning, a strong case can be made for the argument that the use of young men for military purposes when their productive capacities are so necessary in industry represents an ill-planned use of human resources.

The number of COs is small and their alternative service in civil employment cannot therefore be regarded as a considerable factor; but their resistance to conscription contributes towards its unpopularity and they may therefore be regarded as making some contribution towards the elimination of the waste of labour in military service.

The relationship of conscientious objection to colonial liberation is closer, but it is still rather indefinite. One can say that imperialist exploitation would be impossible without military force and that every opposition to militarism contributes to the undermining of imperialism. One can say more directly that repugnance to military service for the purposes of imperialism is an important motive in the decision which many COs make.

During World War II I represented at Tribunals more than one CO who said that his reason for refusing military service was unwillingness to join an army one of whose purposes was to keep colonial peoples in subjection, and only last week I met a young CO who declared that his action was based on a determination not to be sent to Malaya in order to maintain imperialist rule in that colony.

The Irish example

More important is the example of conscientious objection as a method by which service in the forces of an occupying power might be resisted by a colonial people.

This was dramatically illustrated in the First World War when conscription was proposed for Ireland. Representatives of the Irish Nationalist Movement came to Britain to discuss with officials of the No-Conscription Fellowship (the COs' organisation) how resistance to forced military service could best be made.

Largely as a result of this discussion, the Irish leaders decided not to attempt the hopeless task of opposing conscription by violence, but instead to indicate the general determination to refuse service by a one-day demonstration strike. On that day not a man in Southern Ireland worked, and even the journalists in their hotels had to cook their own breakfasts! This manifestation of the will of the Irish people was so formidable that the British Government did not dare to apply the powers which it had taken to impose conscription upon Ireland.

This example may prove important in the future. The peoples of Africa who are struggling to achieve their political liberation realise that they would be overwhelmed by the modern arms which are in the hands of the imperialists if they attempted to gain their liberty by violence; but large numbers of them have declared that they will not again serve in the armies of their im-

perialist masters. They will follow the example of the non-co-operation movement in India and of the COs in Europe.

Refusal not a decisive influence

Service to peace is the main social influence which animates COs, but I doubt whether in fact refusal to join the armed forces has directly a major influence in realising peace. The public service which COs do for the cause of peace prior to a war, and still more the public service which they do after a war (for most are too young to do much before they are called to the colours), may be of great importance; but, once war is actually declared patriotic passion pays little regard to the minority of COs. It is true enough to say that if all followed their example there would be no war; but, except in colonial countries, large numbers cannot be expected to follow their example so long as the present interpretation of patriotism persists.

The stand of the CO serves as an example of courage for pacifist conviction and can be used in the general propaganda for peace; but we are deluding ourselves in my view, if we believe that his example will be decisive in transforming the world from a war to a peace basis.

The major issue—liberty

Nevertheless, I believe that indirectly the CO's stand is of great importance to peace.

It is the significance of his attitude as a contribution towards the fourth progressive tendency which I have mentioned—the tendency towards democratic and personal liberty—which serves in this way.

But before I clarify what I mean in this respect, let us consider his direct effect in the conflict of our time for liberty against totalitarianism.

This is a major issue for our generation. Over the one-sixth of the world which is now incorporated in the USSR, over the vast territory of China and in Eastern Europe, democratic rights reflected in freedom to think and to speak and to express one's self in unfettered scientific and artistic developments are crushed.

There is little respect for human personality and for individual rights. The State is everything and the citizen is regarded as its automatic servant. Such a regime may mean an advance in material well-being, and may be progressive in social arrangement; but without freedom of thought and personality, human progress will come to a dead end.

Every assertion of fundamental human rights, every acceptance of respect for personality, is accordingly profoundly important today for the future of man.

The United Nations and the Council of Europe have adopted Charters of Human Liberty, but they do not yet include what is perhaps the most fundamental of all human liberties—the right of the individual to decide when it is his duty to kill and when it is his obligation to be killed. This, after all, is the basic right of life itself. The assertion of this right is the profoundest challenge to totalitarianism.

Many States have now recognised this right to a larger or lesser degree. Britain, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, America and New Zealand have all introduced clauses in their conscription Acts exempting COs who are held to be sincere from military service. The constitution of Western Germany embodies it. In Britain, exemption now extends not only to those who are pacifists by religious or philosophic conviction, but to political objectors who feel it wrong to fight in a particular war.

In the long run a country which recognised the demands of conscience in the individual, which realises that the choice between right or wrong rests in the last resort in the individual, is stronger than the country which attempts to force all its citizens to obey commands which invade the sphere of moral sanctions.

The only hope—synthesis

But why do I attach this recognition of individual conscience to the cause of peace? The world is now divided into two blocs which broadly represent the totalitarian conception of society and the democratic conception. If this division remains, war at some point becomes inevitable. The only hope of enduring peace is to find a synthesis between the Eastern and Western political philosophies and so establish a harmonised community of nations.

Progressive minds are increasingly realising that this synthesis demands the economic planning which is the basis of the Russian system and the political and personal liberty which is the basis of the democratic countries.

Conscientious objectors, with their devotion to social service and international organisation, for the most part accept the necessity for economic planning, both within the frontiers of our nations and across the frontiers on a Continental and international basis. At the same time, they embody the ideal of the same time, they embody the ideal of personal liberty. They are therefore reflecting in their personal and social lives the synthesis which we must seek if peace is to be permanently established.

Everything which is done to safeguard personal liberty whilst State and Super-State planning advances is of profound importance for peace.

The CO is building better than he knows.

S.S. CALEDONIA CALLING

VERA BRITAIN, Chairman of the Peace Pledge Union, is on her way home from the World Pacifist Conference, and readers of Peace News are reminded of the suggestion that we should raise £150 for Headquarters Fund as a special welcome to her on her arrival towards the end of February.

In a message Vera Britain writes: "Personally I have found it a rich and rewarding experience, though at times extremely exhausting. On my last day I had no less than nine successive engagements—five of them being lectures or speeches. This is typical of the demands that Indians in their enthusiasm have made upon us. I hope to be able to share my experiences with the PPU, and that we shall all find much to help us at home from what has been learnt in India."

"I feel the need, therefore, of emphasising the fact that the PPU must not allow any new opportunity to slip from lack of the financial resources. I am somewhat anxiously wondering what the financial news will be on my return. I can imagine no better welcome home than the kind of 'surprise' which I remember mentioning as I left the air terminal."

VERA BRITAIN.
Our aim for 1950: £600.
Suggested welcome for Vera Britain by the end of February: £150.
Amount received since Jan. 1, 1950: £36.
Donations to the fund should be sent to the Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C1.

A month's rescue work by thousands had little effect after

ECUADOR'S 'H-BOMB' EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

ROBERT DARK reconstructs the story of last August's earthquake in Ecuador from "on-the-spot" reports and pictures from U.S. conscientious objectors and missionaries.

If the Committee, set up to study America's latest weapon, wanted an example of the destruction that could be wrought by the explosion of an hydrogen bomb, they should travel to Ecuador.

There, a few months ago, an earthquake killed over 6,000 people, injured tens of thousands more, and rendered homeless more than 10,000 others.

The area affected was roughly that which would be affected by an hydrogen bomb. But, unlike the target of an hydrogen bomb, the area was not heavily populated.

Too little, too late

A particularly disturbing feature of this earthquake was the delay in the arrival of aid, and, then, finally, the inadequacy of aid.

An American missionary, returning from the devastated region, wrote:

"The disease and filth can only be imagined. The dead lay unburied and the water supply is even more contaminated than usual.

"Food and clothing are hardly to be had even yet. For some days food was not available to anyone."

Inhabitants 3,000. Survivors 300.

A month after the earthquake, the position was almost unchanged. Another witness declared:

"I came back sobered by the vastness of the need and the lack of help. . . . In several of the towns destruction of homes and property was practically complete.

"The town of Pelileo, with 3,000 inhabitants, was left with 300 survivors and not one single house standing. The dead have not even been taken from the ruins."

Severe damage was done in Ambato, a semi-modern city with a population of about thirty-six thousand, 50 miles away from the volcanic peaks.

For days the city was without lights and water, and completely cut off from the outside world. On the night of the earthquake thousands of people wandered homeless through the streets, while damaged buildings continued to collapse around them.

Villages completely destroyed

In the surrounding villages, where most houses were made of mud or adobe, destruction was almost complete.

A number of villages, with populations of one to five thousands, were totally destroyed. In some cases nearly every inhabitant was killed.

Most of the homeless were housed in U.S. army tents; others lived in old boxes or

JUNE 1949 PN WANTED

We require clean copies of each June, 1949, issue of Peace News and shall be very grateful to readers who can help replenish our files. Please post in large envelopes if possible (they may be unsealed).

Total resistance urged to hydrogen war

AMERICAN TAX REFUSER CALLS FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

From WALLACE HAMILTON

NEW YORK

TOTAL resistance and civil disobedience to the war-making powers of national governments has been described as "necessary and imperative" in view of the pending manufacture of hydrogen bombs.

Addressing a church gathering—held to commemorate the anniversary of Gandhi's assassination—on Jan. 30 at the Community Church here, Rev. A. J. Muste, Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, declared that if the American people sanctioned their government's development of hydrogen armaments, "they vote for war."

If the USA Government should decide to manufacture such weapons of mass destruction, "we will be making an investment not in peace but in greater and greater insecurity," the pacifist leader said. "I call on all of you to resist this thing unto death."

In the first public report of the World Peace Meeting, held in India in December, Mr. Muste, one of the American delegates to the meeting, said that a 15-man international liaison group had been formed to coordinate as far as possible pacifist and



under trees. In the countryside, orphan children ran loose like animals.

"As we stood on the hillside above the remains," a witness writes, "not one house was standing, not a street was discernable and many, many bodies still remained buried under the debris."

"A few days after the catastrophe a bus was uncovered in this village with its thirty passengers and driver all dead. But, because of the lack of equipment and workers, practically nothing has been done here yet. . . .

"Much of the money sent for relief from different countries has not reached its useful destination three weeks after this thing has come to pass."

Thousands worked day and night

To anyone examining an account of the organized aid sent to the devastated area, this delay seems inconceivable.

For, in addition to the spontaneous action of the Ecuadorian Government, help was forthcoming from many other countries.

Teams of doctors, nurses and technicians, as well as huge quantities of supplies, were flown to the stricken area by the U.S. Air Force, accompanied by USAF publicity men.

Thousands of troops and police worked day and night to clear the debris and reopen roads.

Red Cross organisations launched relief appeals; and, ten days after the earthquake, help was provided by UN.

The town of Pelileo, Ecuador, after the Aug. 5, 1949, earthquake. It was totally destroyed, only 300 of the 3,000 inhabitants survived. Photo, together with that on page one, was taken by Benton Rhoades, American conscientious objector, missionary and social worker who was working in the neighbourhood.

To a Briton, especially, with a tradition of efficiency in rescue services, the delay does not seem possible.

But the Briton, surveying the scene, must realise that this country has never experienced a catastrophe on so vast a scale; and that, even in a war-time blitz, damage was confined to a city or a town or, at the most, to a comparatively small area.

What the H-bomb means

For one huge city to be totally in ruins is unimaginable. For all its great buildings and organisations to be suddenly destroyed—it is not possible.

And yet, with the decision to manufacture the H-bomb this prospect not only remains a possibility, but, day by day, draws nearer to reality.

The most efficient, highly-trained civil defence can offer no protection against an atomic or hydrogen bomb. And, in a future war, it seems almost certain that these weapons would be used.

If they were, the story of the Ecuadorian earthquake, and of the delay in aid, would be repeated over and over again.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

INDIA: Six Japanese technicians have arrived in New Delhi to train Indian refugees for new jobs. "Having learned the hard lesson of a costly war, Japan, under her new constitution, now pins her faith to the ideals of peace and democracy," they declared at a joint interview. "Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence has assumed a new meaning for the Japanese. Modern Japan believes that a combination of India's natural resources with Japan's technical acumen would be ideal for promoting peace and happiness in India."

COSTA RICA: This little South American republic starts 1950 with a new budget which provides only \$1,000,000 for all defence and police expenditures, but allocates \$3,250,000 to education. Another \$1,750,000 has been set aside for public works.

SHANGHAI: A British newspaper recently published a report of a German doctor's heroism in saving the life of a Briton wounded during street-fighting between Nationalists and Communists. The wounded man was taken to the U.S. Consulate where he would have died had not Dr. Horst Schneider arrived in time. The doctor had to leave the rickshaw in which he was travelling to the Consulate and creep along the walls of houses, and hide in doorways while the fighting went on.

FINLAND: Fifteen representatives each from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland will meet at the next annual congress of the Scandinavian Peace Association, to be held at Helsinki from Aug. 2 to 4 this year. For the coming year the President of the Association, which links the pacifist societies in all four countries, will be Dr. Felix Iversen, Finland.

USA: Americans have an individual responsibility to assure that the United States uses its "tremendous power" to promote universal peace and advancement, Dean Liston Pope of Yale University Divinity School declared here at the fourth national Methodist Student conference. He told more than 2,000 young Methodists that "our greatest problem today is learning to live with our tremendous power without becoming cynical or brutal," and that "in a democracy the people eventually make a foreign policy."—RNS.

SWEDEN: A pamphlet which A. Ruth Fry wrote last year on the theme of "Peace But . . ." has been translated into Swedish, and is being distributed by the World Peace Mission in Sweden.

GERMANY: At a big peace meeting organised by VVN (former victims of Nazism) the ex-chairman, Dr. Ludwig Schmitt protested against any remilitarisation of Germany. He said that he hoped the Pope would make an appeal to all Catholics (400 millions) never to take up arms again. Dr. Schmitt also recommended the governments of the Eastern and Western Zones to follow Japan's example and include in their Constitution a declaration that the country would never again wage war.

A man's first duty TO REFUSE MILITARY SERVICE SAY TWO FRENCH AUTHORS

In the Paris "Match" recently, Jean Glono, novelist and Jean Cocteau, playwright, expressed the following views on conscientious objection, now being widely discussed in the French Press:

Jean Glono

CONSCIENTIOUS objection is, before all other disciplines, the first right of man and his first duty. It is essentially by the exercise of this right, by the adoption of this duty, that man establishes and affirms his nobility.

Total acceptance by the conscience of obedience "ad cadaver" (to the death), displays a personal powerlessness combined with excessive pride.

In our age, when men who are most ignorant of the true conditions of happiness wish to direct, dominate and lead, it is conscientious objection, and that alone, that provides the last hope of salvation. But it is necessary to have a conscience, and that is the most difficult thing of all.

As for myself, I have walked the roads of Provence tearing down the mobilisation notices stuck on the plane-trees. I have been shut in the Chateau d'If for pacifist rebellion, and no doubt would have stayed there a long time but for the protests of American students.

I know too much of war not to join forces with all those who raise a protest, however weak, against it.

I am always ready to write a new "Refus d'Obeissance" and to sign it.

Jean Cocteau

THE conscientious objector has always an extraordinary courage: the courage of his refusal.

In a society like ours, it is not easy to say "No" to the army, to say "No" to war. The CO always knows what awaits him; he exchanges the worst for the worst. All ways he is the loser. To preserve what he believes is the prompting of his soul, he loses his liberty. At bottom, he is a hero. But unfortunately for him, he must be a passive hero. It would take a film to show that. I wonder why Chaplin hasn't considered it.

I am above all drawn to the conscientious objector—the mystical anarchist—by the impudence of his spirit. He has no doubts; he is a challenge.

US Armed Services Committee hears war resister

CONSCRIPTION WILL DESTROY DEMOCRACY

ROY KEPLER, executive secretary of the American War Resisters' League, testified on Jan. 30, 1950, before the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee against the extension of the 1948 Selective Service Act which conscripts young men for military service.

In opposing this legislation Mr. Kepler said that the War Resisters' League is "opposed to conscription and asks for nothing short of its abolition. . . . Conscription . . . has shown itself to be an integral part of war . . .

"Conscription means not just the rigid control of the lives of young men for a period of military training, but the general control of population and natural resources, of what people say and even what they think."

The assertion of the War Resisters' League is that any organisation of violence is antithetical to the process of peace. However well intentioned, the attempt to make "peace" by organising violence is, in their view, and as Gandhi taught, a contradiction in terms. The hold that war preparation, conscription, militarism, etc., will not prevent war or preserve freedom.

Mr. Kepler stated further: "He who still accepts war, let him see the logic of his acceptance: he accepts also conscription, the concentration camp, the hydrogen bomb, the totalitarian society. The organisation of violence is a self-destructive process."

He concluded by quoting Mahatma Gandhi:

"There is no escape from the impending doom save through a bold and unconditional acceptance of the non-violent method. Democracy and violence go ill together. The states that are today nominally democratic will either have to become frankly totalitarian or, if they are to become truly democratic, they must become courageously non-violent."

The War Resisters' League is "convinced that war is a crime against humanity, is opposed to war in any form and is determined not to support any kind of war, civil or international."

BURNLEY'S PACIFIST—ILP CANDIDATE: Socialists and Christians should risk applying their principles

DAN CARRADICE, Independent Labour Party candidate for Burnley (Lancs.), will face Communist, Conservative and Labour opposition. He is aged 64 and was imprisoned for three years as a CO in the first world war.

"People can make what capital they like out of that," he told the Burnley Express. "If I am going to appeal to the people they might as well know just what my views are as regards war and anything connected with it."

LIBERTARIAN Socialism and Pacifism seem to me the great essentials for immediate application if society is to survive and have continued progress. "The world is my Parish" was sound philosophy. We are not merely Britishers. Our first duty is not to our own country, but to humanity. We are all citizens of the world. All war is thus civil war and is murder within the family.

Let us look at a few of the big facts. At least half of the people in the world have not enough to eat.

No nation in the world is properly housed.

Millions of refugees are semi-slaves.

In these circumstances it is madness for the so-called civilised nation to waste at least one-third of their resources on war preparations.

If the military budget is to retain the power to mould you then militarism in both private life and international affairs will be the inevitable result.

It is not possible that if Socialists and Christians took the risk to apply the principles they preach, this act of great faith and sanity might have amazing beneficial results for mankind?

H-BOMB

America log:— "Here is Defence. It may destroy indeed most of the living world, but come what may we must make Death to keep a war away." So—pure destruction has become our creed!

PHYLLIS VALLANCE

UP AND DOING

"NEVER heard of it" is all too often the reaction to a mention of Peace News. Yet there are a host of ways of bringing it to the public notice, and then the name itself will start them thinking.

The Jamesons at Little Marlow, and Mrs. Oehlcke of Woodmoor have a jolly good idea. A poster board is fixed to their fences, and Peace News posters (free on request), and even sheets out of the paper are mounted up for all to read. You could start one whilst the district has an election poster rash!

What are you doing to boost the paper? At least I hope you are reading this panel each week and trying out the suggestions made.

H.F.M.

Last week's circulation: 10,200.

IF YOU WANT PEACE PREPARE FOR PEACE

'War preparations a waste' say Police Cadets

At a debating competition held recently by the Liverpool Boys Association, the motion "That the best way to maintain peace is to prepare for peace and not for war," was debated.

Speaking to the motion, Police Cadet G. Smith said: "The world has seen enough of wars and we have seen enough in the past few generations. The world today is a great challenge to everyone, but especially to young people. We have the opportunity to try this new policy, which has never been tried before."

In support, B. Kelly, young member of Liverpool Brunswick Club was in favour of a world language and thought that "If we had the youth of the world together—not the old men of ninety—we would cultivate some degree of peace."

Police Cadet J. Ruddick spoke against the motion. "War is inevitable, therefore you prepare for it. Conscription teaches men a sense of discipline which is not had

by everyone. Conscription has its merits as well as demerits."

W. Hall of Old Swan, also thought that armaments were necessary to keep the peace.

Another Police Cadet, A. Leach, was in favour of the motion. He pointed out that if we wasted all our effort and energy on preparing for war and war did not come, there was a lot of effort wasted. "If we transfer that energy and effort into a 'commercial war' we will get somewhere," he declared.

JAPAN JOURNEY

Floyd Schmoes' report from Hiroshima will appear next week.

FILMS WITHOUT FRONTIERS

By Audrey Boorne

WHETHER the present spate of films which are neither purely fictional nor straight documentary, can prove a more satisfying medium than such entertaining and thought-provoking masterpieces as "The Third Man," is difficult to judge.

But for those people who believed that the Germans were alone responsible for the atrocities of Nazism and who have overlooked the thousands of German nationals who died in Hitler's Concentration Camps, "It Concerns Us All" may be a significant film.

The little Austrian child, brilliantly if too maturely portrayed by Ilse Lilien—whose father, an author, is condemned by the Nazis—is recognised amongst a crowd of DP children by a Danish Red Cross Nurse as a former occupant of Auschwitz. She is sent by the team's doctor to Denmark where amid the material affluence of a rich and comfortable home, he hopes she will make a mental and physical recovery.

Although her Danish foster mother is called foolish for looking after a German, she maintains that "if more people were ridiculous in this way, perhaps there would not be any more wars."

She remembers suffering Vienna

Meanwhile the girl realises with the intuition of a child and the suffering of an adult, that these people are not really happy because they worry about small things, and, remembering the starvation in her native Vienna, she asks to return. The doctor too must go back to try to alleviate some of the pain, as if in so doing he would fulfill his and the world's responsibility for that

guilt which is the concern of us all.

This film is a fine tribute to the work of the Danish Red Cross which operated in Vienna and Warsaw immediately after the war, when it was "easy to blame but very necessary to heal."

Healing was the note of a last year's American film *The Snake Pit*, which tried to create a positive attitude towards mental illness. Now they have produced "*The Unwanted*" which has attempted in a more limited manner, to do the same thing for the unmarried mothers—a universal problem in an American setting with American particulars, but none the less telling for all that. Underlined is the need for wisdom from the parents, from society and from possible employers.

The Haven Hospital is a large and efficiently-run institution with the personable well-dressed superintendent being broad-minded and helpful, but even she can not lighten the misery of a girl whose tragedy has no compensations, because she must either bring her child up poor and fatherless, or sign him away to foster parents.

Although "*The Unwanted*" is inclined to be melodramatic and not so delicately handled as it might have been, it is an American film about something which matters, and after all that makes a change.

Life in Siam

The supporting semi-documentary which I saw, "*A Handful of Rice*," or the story of life in the jungles of Siam, is a production of the Swedish Film Industry.

Here is a place where people are not concerned with strikes or atom bombs or train delays, but with such rudimentary things

as droughts and tigers and the clearance of forest undergrowth.

It is a land where Mr. and Mrs. Everyman do not put their names on a waiting list for a house, but strike out into the free countryside and build their own!

A Russian documentary

As Russian documentary films are usually so good I wonder what technical or political reason there is for not seeing more of them? How refreshing to find a Soviet film commented on by an American in a British Cinema about things which are universal!

"*The Story of a Ring*" is the story of migrational flight and more particularly of a pair of storks who year after year return to the same nesting site in the eastern Ukraine, until war sweeps across to the Urals and destroys the storks' nest together with the male bird. But so strong is the nesting instinct that the female flies back alone and begins life afresh with a new mate. An interesting and beautiful ornithological close-up.

And it is somehow pleasant to be reminded that Starlings and Tits live in Russia too.

Incidentally, during the showing of a recent newsreel at the "Academy," an ostentatiously Left-Wing audience expressed divided loyalty in its rival acclamation of Stalin and Tito!

* "*It Concerns Us All*" and "*The Story of a Ring*" are to be shown in London in the near future. "*The Not-wanted*" is showing this week at Astoria, Charing Cross Road, and Tivoli, Strand.

Notes for your Diary

This is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent to us. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and Secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

Friday, February 10
LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens; Deanna Levin on "Education and Freedom"; PPU.

GLASGOW: 7.30 p.m. Allan Glens, 12 Montrose Street; Guy A. Aldred, 12 Montrose Street; Public Meeting.

Saturday, February 11
LONDON, W.C.1: 2.30 p.m. Dick Shepp, 6 Endsleigh Street; Meeting of the "Steps to Peace" Conference; Public Meeting.

WOLWICH: 7.30 p.m. Ancona Road, 12 Endsleigh Street; Public Meeting.

PLEASE HAND THIS TO YOUR NEWSAGENT
Please deliver PEACE NEWS to me weekly

(Newsagent's name)

WOOLWICH: 3.0 p.m. 19 Angelsea Road (Woolwich Arsenal Stn.); Poster Parade in support of Frank Hancock, No-More-War candidate; Candidate's Campaign Committee.

CANTERBURY: 3 p.m. Methodist Hall, High Street; Area Conference for East Kent; Speaker: Hugh Faulkner; For.

Sunday, February 12

CROYDON: 7 p.m. Adult School Hall, Park Lane; Mildred Fahrni (Canadian For) and Igal Roodenko (American WRI) on "The World Meeting of Religious Pacifists."

NEWCASTLE: 7 p.m. City Hall; Fred Barton, ILP Pacifist Election Candidate; Stuart Morris and others; Public Meeting.

Monday, February 13

GLASGOW: 7.30 p.m. Martyrs' 11 Barony Street; Guy A. Aldred, Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

HIGHBURY: 8 p.m. Central Library, Holloway Road; Debate with Lington Literary and Debating Club: "That Britain should advocate and initiate total disarmament"; All welcome; Lington PPU.

NEWCASTLE: 7.30 p.m. Wellbeck Road and Cambridge Street Primary Schools; Fred Barton, ILP Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

Tuesday, February 14

GLASGOW: 7.30 p.m. St. Rochs Junior School, 40 Royston Road; Guy A. Aldred, Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

LONDON, S.W.5: 7.30 p.m. At 74 Warwick Road, Earls Court; Speaker: Rev. E. H. Gordon; World Youth Friendship League.

Wednesday, February 15

BRISTOL: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Broadwell; "I Choose Peace" by K. Ziliacius reviewed by Will Parkin; All welcome; PPU.

GLASGOW: 7.30 p.m. St. David's, St. James Road; Guy A. Aldred, Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

NEWCASTLE: 7.30 p.m. Crutches Park and North View Primary Schools; Fred Barton, ILP Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

WOOLWICH: 7.30 p.m. Elizabeth School, N. Woolwich; Frank Hancock, Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

Thursday, February 16

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open-air meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

Friday, February 17

BIRMINGHAM: 7 p.m. Bull Street Meeting House; Speaker: the Rev. John Nevill Sayre (USA), Chairman of IFOR; "World Pacifist Conference"; For.

CHICHESTER: 7 p.m. Oriel Lodge, West Street; Speaker: Hugh Faulkner; For.

GLASGOW: 7.30 p.m. Townhead, 12 Rottenrow; Guy A. Aldred, Pacifist Election Candidate; Public Meeting.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens; Oswald Blakeston "Readings from my Works"; Central London PPU.

Saturday, February 18

OXFORD: 3 p.m. Friends Meeting House, St. Giles; Speaker: the Rev. John Nevill Sayre (USA), Chairman of IFOR; "World Pacifist Conference"; For.

WOOLWICH: 3.0 p.m. 19 Angelsea Road (Woolwich Arsenal Stn.); Poster Parade in support of Frank Hancock, No-More-War candidate; Candidate's Campaign Committee.

Sat., Feb. 18—Wed., Feb. 22

SOUTH AYRESHIRE: Stuart Morris at meetings in support of the candidature of Emrys Hughes.

Sunday, February 19

NOTTINGHAM: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Friars Lane; Dorothy Hogg on "Japan, her role in the new Asia"; Society of Friends.

Tuesday, February 21

ST. ALBANS: 8 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Upper Lattimore Road; Branch Annual General Meeting; For.

Sunday, February 26

LONDON, S.W.1: 3.4 p.m. St. Ermina, Caxton Street; Meeting in honour of the memory of H. Runham Brown. WRI.

Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5

SOUTHPORT: Commencing Saturday 5 p.m.; Orleans Christian Guest House, Lathorn Road; Weekend School; Leader: Rev. Alun Williams, B.A.; Subject: Education for Peace; Inclusive charge 15s. each; Apply at once to Llewelyn Lloyd, 25 Derwent Avenue, Prescott, Lancs.; North West Area PPU.

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

LATEST TIME for copy: Monday before publication.

TERMS: Cash with order. 3d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment, except for odd pence. Maximum length: 50 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.

When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

We reserve the right to hold over advertisements and to limit the frequency of continuing advertisements.

MEETINGS

WEIGH HOUSE Church, Duke Street, W.1. (Bond St. Tube), Sunday evenings at 7. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

ACCOMMODATION

GENTLEMAN, MIDDLE-AGED, shortly requires quiet accommodation as paying guest/private boarder in pacifist house. Own piano and wardrobe. Surrey preferred, other areas considered; permanency likely. Box 124.

DERBYSHIRE HILLS. Vegetarian Guest House. Rest and comfort amid beautiful scenery. Arthur and Catherine Ludlow, The Briars, Crich, Near Matlock. Tel: Ambergate 44.

DORSET COAST. Relax and enjoy your holiday. Luxury four berth caravans overlooking Weymouth Bay. March to September, from five guineas inclusive. Write for particulars Bob Gray, Buckland Newton, Dorchester.

BUDE, CORNWALL. Delightful walks. Lovely coastal views. Enjoy restful and friendly atmosphere of Atlantic Guest House. Ideally situated on Sea Front. Vegetarians and others welcomed. Joan and Herbert Lomax.

YOUNG MARRIED couple would like help to find homely cottage accommodation for holiday in Chipping Campden area (April). F. Booth, Rock Village, Alnwick, Northumberland.

EDUCATIONAL

EULALIA HORNIMAN, M.A., T.D., teaches English, French, German, Spanish. Also literature; Coaching. 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

SPEAKING & WRITING lessons (correspondence, visit) 5s. Dorothy Matthews, BA. 32 Primrose Hill Road, London, N.W.3. PRImrose 5686.

FOR SALE & WANTED

FOUR BERTH caravan to let at Littlehampton. March onwards. Terms. Jackson, 2 East Woodale, Billingham, Sussex. FOR SALE. 100 £1 shares in Holton Beckering Estates, Ltd. Seller needs capital. Box 128.

Have you placed an order for
PEACE NEWS
with your newsagent?

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS good quality cream wove 10 in. x 4 in. (as used in PN office) 2s. 100, 17s. 6d. 1,000 post free. Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

LITERATURE, &c.

ELECTION READING from Houseman Books. "Smatterbooks" ("100 facts about...") Labour Party, Liberal Party, Conservative Party, Ballot Box, United Nations, House of Commons; 6d. each, postage 1d. "Keeping Left" by Sagittarius and Vicky—a non-party frolic, 2s. 6d., postage 2d. Fifty Years March—History of the Labour Party, by Francis Williams, 7s. 6d., postage 6d., 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

QUAKERISM Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practices of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

PERSONAL

INTRODUCTIONS. PEN friends, companionship or marriage. V.C.C., 34 Honeywell Road, London, S.W.11. MARRIAGE BUREAU offers unrivalled personal service. Details free—Mary Blair (room 59), 147 Holborn, E.C.1.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Situations are available only to applicants accepted from the Control of Engagement Order, 1947, No. 2811.

OAKLEY WOOD School, Newton St. Cyres, Devon. Teacher required, twelve pupils in group. For further particulars, apply, Tony Warner.

SITUATIONS AND WORK WANTED

FIRST-CLASS duplicating, etc. Mahal Eyles, 29 Rokaby Avenue, London, N.4. MOU 1701.

PACIFIST, FEMALE, (26 years), requires further congenial secretarial post. Box 129.

MISCELLANEOUS

WAR RESISTERS' International web comes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRI, Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

Essential Reading
for Active Pacifists

THE PPU JOURNAL

Monthly Fourpence
From Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4, or your local PPU Group (Postage 1d.)

GOVERNMENT AND QUAKERS'
PEACE APPEAL

Don't give up hope

TO THE EDITOR

THANK you for the generous space and attention given in your last issue to the correspondence on the need for new initiatives for peace which has passed between Lady Parmoor and myself on the one hand and Mr. Attlee and the Foreign Office on the other.

I do not want to quarrel with the essential justness of your criticism of the Government's reply to our appeal but I have rather a feeling that in your comment, the Government's negative attitude is dangerously over-stated in view of all the circumstances.

You may or may not be right in saying that Mr. Attlee and the FO refused "to give serious consideration" to the appeal for a new approach to Russia—it may be that that is what their reply amounts to—but the document is certainly a reasoned answer and there is evidence for the belief that the Prime Minister gave considered personal attention both to our letter and the terms of the Foreign Office rejoinder. But I doubt if you are entitled to say that the Government has come to "the final abandonment of any hope of improvement" where relations between East and West are concerned. Their reply in fact states quite categorically—though you do not quote this—that they "share Mr. Bailey's opinion that the differences between Russia and the West are not ultimately irreconcilable by peaceful means."

I would agree that this is of little importance if the Government is unprepared to support the conviction by any positive action but we should be unwise to ignore the assurance for what it is worth and to speak and write as if it had not been given.

I am as disappointed as you are with some aspects of Labour foreign policy but I am not prepared even now to regard it as indistinguishable from Churchillian foreign policy nor—especially on the eve of an election—to write off Labour as hopeless in this field.

There is the additional point that this correspondence passed more than two months ago and well before the announcement about the hydrogen bomb, though by pure coincidence the correspondence was published simultaneously with President Truman's statement.

Made later, the FO reply might not have been materially different but we are not entitled to assume that developments of recent weeks—and notably the almost universal recognition of the unprecedented gravity of the hydrogen bomb situation—have not had some influence, if not on the FO, at least on the minds of Labour Ministers and candidates. The clear duty of the likes of us is to do our best to sharpen the impression which these events must have made even on Mr. Attlee and his friends.

GERALD BAILEY

28 York Road,
Guildford.

It was intended that three PN pamphlets should be published on pacifists and the General Election. The early Election has made it impossible to print more than two—giving the "Vote No-more-war" and "Vote Labour" viewpoints. The third would have been the "Non Voters" viewpoint, now put forward in the following article by

The Rev. W. Martin Andrew

"I SHALL NOT BE VOTING"

IN anticipation of the plentiful supply of red herrings which invariably dog the introduction of a highly controversial topic, it should be emphasised at the outset that these observations are limited strictly by the title under which they are written.

They are not intended as a discussion as to whether pacifists should—or should not—be concerned with politics, they are only concerned with a particular form of political action at a particular time in the history of Great Britain.

The following reflections arise very largely from a Peace News report of the Bristol Tribunal, when a certain reverend gentleman, giving evidence in support of a CO's claim for exemption, answered (apparently after much hesitation and with considerable reluctance) the question as to whether he would vote for a candidate advocating unilateral disarmament by saying "Not if he was a Conservative."

Now I wonder why; it can only presumably be because he thought other matters to be of greater importance than disarmament.

In the circumstances, one can only speculate as to what these might be—abolition of the House of Lords, perhaps, or maybe the addition of the Steel Industry to those already inhabiting the State Institution for Pauperised Industries.

THE above report carried my mind back to a note in the Christian Pacifist at the time of the last General Election, when a prominent member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation after stating that one of the candidates in the Constituency in which she

MY DUTY: NOT TO
SERVE IN ARMYBirmingham COs fine
work for peace

"WAR is essentially evil. Therefore it is my duty to do what I can to avert war," an eighteen-year-old student, David J. Webster, told Birmingham Conscientious Objectors Tribunal last week.

He pleaded that his objection was based on ethical and political, not Christian grounds.

He was accompanied to the Tribunal by his tutor, Mr. John S. Hoyland, lecturer in international subjects at Woodbrook College, where Webster is a student.

Mr. Hoyland told the Tribunal: "This is a very exceptional case, and although I do not share his views about religion, I have a great regard for him. He has been to many European countries in a direct attempt to foster international friendship, and has a remarkable capacity for working for the ideals behind the United Nations Organisation."

Hitch-hiked through Europe

It was said that Webster had hitch-hiked, walked and worked at odd jobs during his travels on the Continent. He had stayed some months in Czechoslovakia where he had formed friendships with people of differing outlooks.

Questioned about his religious principles, he said that though coming from a Christian family he had passed through a stage of agnosticism and was now thinking out his own approach to religion.

Conscience must show itself

Mr. Hoyland said he was convinced that his pupil's conscience had shown itself, in his very deep and devoted study and work in many countries, as a sign of the purpose of God working in him. "Conscience must show itself through action," he added.

Before retiring to consider the case, Judge Norris remarked that it was the most difficult case the court had had.

The Tribunal ruled that his name should be removed from the register of conscientious objectors, reports the Birmingham Mail.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

BRISTOL: A resolution urging the "plain duty of every elector to ascertain the views of candidates on Foreign Policy," was passed without dissent at a public meeting organised by the Bristol Peace Council. Mrs. Sylvia Shallard of the Women's International Day Committee, Mr. T. Lewis of the New Modern Quarterly and Will Parkin of the Peace Pledge Union were the speakers.

LONDON: Pacifist taxpayers not covered by PAYE are to discuss the question of refusing payment of the portion allocated to war expenditure.

Readers who wish to contact the group—at present comprising some of the members of the Peace Pledge Union's Non-violence Commission—may do so through the Commission's secretary, Mrs. Ethel Lewis, The Manse, Brill, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Tax refusal was one of the proposals brought forward at the recent meeting of the PPU's Commission on Non-violence, which was addressed by Richard Gregg, author of the "Power of Non-violence."

The Chairman pointed out to the meeting

Gaoling of CO
shocks Monmouth'MAKING MARTYRS OF
OUR GOOD MEN'

SENTENCED to 3 months' imprisonment for refusing medical examination as a conscript, 18-year-old Alan Trew, of Monmouth, has gained a great deal of local sympathy.

A plea for his release is made in the Monmouthshire Beacon by the Editor who declares that "public opinion in Monmouth and much further afield is shocked that such a thing could happen in these blessed days of peace."

"The immediate problem," he continues, "is what can be done to undo this travesty."

Appeal to Home Secretary urged

"If Parliament were sitting the case could have been raised in the Commons. Seeing that this is not possible, the next best thing is to call upon Capt. Peter Thorneycroft and Mr. Graham Thomas his Labour opponent to appeal to the Home Secretary to review the sentence."

A further protest has been made in the columns of the same paper by Rev. F. Massey of Dixton Vicarage, Monmouth. He writes:

"History is full of such struggles. The ancient prophets were stoned in their day. St. Peter standing in the Temple, told the council in Jerusalem, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.' In later days John Bunyan and a host of others suffered for conscience sake."

Making martyrs of our good men

"The great tragedy now is that, whilst we are prepared to revere the Tolpuddle Martyrs, we make martyrs of our good men."

He urges that a petition be organised at once and that local candidates be questioned on the issue and concludes: "I urge all men to have a constant regard for liberty, for without liberty there can be no civilisation, without liberty the people perish."

Trew, a missionary student at the Bible College, Bristol, was fined £25 in September, 1949, for refusing medical examination. Peace News reported at that time the impressive testimony to Trew's sincerity given in the Court by an Army officer.

that the work of the Non-Violence Commission would not be confined to the London Area—to be really effective it must spread over all the country. The secretary will be pleased to hear from anyone willing to hold meetings or discussion groups with a view to future action.

HASTINGS: As a result of close questioning of the three candidates present on the issue of conscription a "combined candidates" meeting last Monday largely centred on this issue. Philip Millwood, a local PPU member, repeatedly raised the issue and found much support from the Liberal candidate.

LONDON: The Peace Pledge Union's Science Commission will meet tomorrow (Saturday) at 2.30 p.m. at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street. All PPU members are invited to attend.

CROYDON: Local PPU and For Groups and Friends are responsible for exhibiting 200 "No Conscription" and Peace posters now on the public hoardings in Croydon district for "No Conscription Week."

IT seems to me that there is a real danger of many pacifists (and others, for that matter) of living in the past. Because there were once men like James Keir Hardie and George Lansbury and they were known as Labour or Socialist, let us beware of assuming that because we vote Labour in 1950 we are necessarily voting for the principles for which they laboured so heroically.

May we not say that in the present state of party politics, parliamentary issues are so irrelevant to pacifism that a Pacifist National Liberal is at least as likely to be able to do good work as a Pacifist Labourite and certainly from our point of view better work than a bellicose Labourite. Are pacifists really prepared to vote for a party, which, however individual candidates may wobble, is committed inevitably to conscription?

WHERE then do we go from here? Why this nervousness of being thought anti-Labour? I sincerely hope pacifism is emerging from the purely "anti" stage, but if we are to be anti at all I see no valid reason why that attitude should not if necessary be adopted towards the present political Labour Party.

May I conclude as I commenced. These remarks are made concerning the position generally; they are not at all concerned with special conditions such as are present in East Woolwich, or West Leyton and similar places, although at the latter the Political Recording Angel will register the votes cast for Reginald Sorensen, not as votes for pacifism, but as support for the general policy of the present so-called Socialist Government.

For many of us, the choice is such as to leave no course open to us but to stay at home on Election Day.

Sybil Morrison's

CAMPAIGN
COLUMN

I have directed the Atomic Energy Commission to continue its work on all forms of atomic energy weapons, including the so-called hydrogen or super-bomb. Like all other work in the field of atomic weapons, it is being carried forward on a basis consistent with our programme for peace and security. This we shall continue to do until a satisfactory plan for control of atomic energy is achieved.

—President Truman, Jan. 31, 1950

The President's statement came two hours after publication of the Atomic Energy Commission's half yearly report. This stated that the Commission was beginning a three-year programme of production and expansion designed to keep the United States ahead in the race with Russia.

—Daily Telegraph, Feb. 1, 1950

IT is only two weeks ago that I wrote in this column a comment upon the discovery of a super-bomb that had 1,000 times greater explosive power than the atom bomb. I make no apology for returning to the subject now that the U.S.A. have received from their President a "directive" to proceed from discovery to production.

The word "directive" is used by the scientists, some of whom, having concluded their research work on the means of exterminating whole populations, now wish to excuse themselves and be assured that they will in no way be held responsible, by demanding that a pledge be given by the USA not to use the H-bomb first.

Since the USA used the atom bomb "first" and asserted there was ample justification for doing so, it seems highly unlikely that a pledge not to do so with the H-bomb, which after all they had discovered and decided to produce, would carry much weight with other nations.

Do threats bring peace?

That the decision has been taken as part of a programme to be "ahead in the race with Russia," makes it fairly plain that a new effort is to be made to reach agreement, but instead reliance is to be placed on the threat of the bomb. Threats and pledges hardly go together, and, in any case, a threat is never a deterrent to a great power; between nations it is simply an incitement to "go one better."

"Satisfactory plans for control of atomic energy" cannot be successfully negotiated under threats of mass destruction; a will to find agreement is the only possible basis for negotiations of any kind, not weapons for wholesale massacre.

A new approach—now

The fact that the present race in fearful explosives means the future destruction of life on such a scale that it may well mean the end of the human race, brings the world to a crisis, and at last people are awakening to a knowledge of the inevitable march towards war which comes from relying upon war methods. Now is the moment to gather a great demand for a new approach to the whole question of war and its futile expedients, and immoral and brutal weapons.

Pacifists must throw off the apathy that has enveloped them along with others since the war ended, and from now on must unceasingly advocate and press for the alternative method of negotiation backed by disarmament. Obviously, this is no longer considered a mere pacifist "crank," and from all sides the demand for another way is arising.

It is no mere chance that the PPU statement on the H-bomb found its way on to the front page of a national Sunday newspaper; we are saying the things that all ordinary people of commonsense are saying, and must continue to say, until they are heard. It is for pacifists to lead, and show the way.

By kind permission of the News Chronicle and "Vicky" a leaflet with a reproduction of his cartoon "NEED IT BE LIKE THIS" is in preparation. Secretaries will be informed directly it is ready.

End Conscription and War!

CITY HALL, NEWCASTLE
Sunday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

FRED BARTON
ILP Anti-war Candidate, Newcastle Central

STUART MORRIS
Representing No Conscription Council

JOHN McNAIR
General Secretary, ILP

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